

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

U.S. Appln. No. 09/867,543

Attorney Docket No. Q64487

REMARKS

The Examiner has not acknowledged whether the drawings filed with the application on May 31, 2001 have been accepted. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge such an acceptance in the next PTO communication.

The Examiner has not returned an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08 filed with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement of April 15, 2004. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner sign and return a dated copy of the Form in the next PTO communication.

In the present Amendment, claim 9 has been amended for clarity, by reciting that --the base layer further contains a diffuser--. This amendment is clearly supported by the specification, for example, in the paragraph bridging pages 34 and 35 of the specification, in particular, from page 34, line 4 from the bottom to page 35, line 2. Specifically, it is described that "The term 'base layer containing a diffuser dispersed therein' means that the diffuser is present throughout the whole base layer without being present in a higher concentration in part of the base layer. The inorganic oxide serves to inhibit the base layer from dimensionally changing, while the diffuser imparts a light diffusion function to the base layer." This passage read in context clearly describes that the base layer contains both an inorganic oxide and a diffuser. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended so as to be consistent with the amendments to claim 9. As is apparent, none of these amendments narrow the scope of the claims in any manner.

Claims 16, 29, 34, 41 and 46 have been amended as to form for clarity. It will be apparent that none of these amendments reduces the scope of the claims.

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No new matter has been added and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-48 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 9-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Applicants respectfully submit that original claims 9-14 interpreted in light of the specification, are not indefinite. For purposes of advancing prosecution, and without narrowing the scope of claim 9, Applicants have amended claim 9 from which claims 10-14 depend to specifically recite that --the base layer further contains a diffuser--. Claim 9 now clearly recites that the base layer contains both an inorganic oxide and a diffuser. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: June 25, 2004